

FAIR  
ENOUGH

By  
WESTBROOK PEGLER

Suppose we examine the president's request for blanket authority to suspend the immigration laws for duration, the refusal of the House ways and means committee to grant this authority, and the comments of Attorney General Biddle. The request included tariff and espionage laws, but the immigration law seems to have been the one that the committee choked on, so let us stick to that.

Immigration laws have been vexatious at certain points along the Canadian border, principally at Detroit, but do not appear to have impaired the industrial war effort there. In the southwest, where Mexicans are urgently needed in the copper mines and cotton fields from time to time, including now, and become a burden at other times, the law is a pain in the neck to the Mexican migrant and to the community in which he finds himself stranded and destitute in hard times.

Of late, there has been need for Mexicans and the Mexican government, generously forgetting that we banded a lot of Mexican laborers and their families back home a few years ago to lighten the relief rolls, apparently has been willing to permit a number of them to accept our invitation. This time, however, with certain assurances from us that they will be treated better.

That a national government which did not hesitate to trade 50 destroyers for territorial rights in certain British possessions would risk losing or prolonging the war out of a fastidious regard for the letter of the immigration laws along the southwestern border is a suggestion beyond belief of the most naive.

The gimmick in this request as to the immigration laws was the fact that at any time during the actual war, and for the indefinite but probably long period of the peace negotiations, the president would have blanket authority from congress to permit the entry from Europe of a type of immigrant who might be desirable in the eyes of the administration, but displeased with our own form of government, society and economy, and unwelcome in the hearts of the American people. In other words, the Communist or the sedentary European radical who is not a Communist only be-

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## PLANNED SHIFTS IN CABINET MAY STIR CONGRESS

### Ickes Offered Labor Secretary And Manpower Control Posts

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—President Roosevelt may find a large part of his cabinet subjected to some lively congressional criticism if he goes through with a plan for a three-way shift making Harold L. Ickes, secretary of labor with control over manpower.

Ickes already has been offered the post and if he accepts, the president would be expected to seek senate confirmation for this nomination as well as those of Paul V. McNutt to be secretary of the interior and Frances Perkins to be federal security administrator.

Republicans, and some Democrats, already are tuning up their vocal chords for this prospective opportunity of discussing the part the Roosevelt cabinet has played in the war. Ickes, a master at tough and tumble repartee, has left plenty of political scars in his exchanges with anti-Republicans during his nine years in the cabinet.

Himself a former Republican, Ickes has not been so much in the public

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## STATES TRAVELING SALESMEN MENACED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—Representative Colmer, Democrat, Mississippi, declared last week that the administration, through Price Administrator Henderson, is threatening to "practically put the traveling salesman, who is an absolute necessity in rural states, out of business."

In discussing the rubber shortage, Colmer recalled that six months ago he had pointed out that Japan had seized the entire sources of our rubber supply and had urged the administration to "come out in the open and acquaint the people with the fact that our whole raw rubber supply had been cut and that if the war lasted for two or three years more we might be faced with the problem of not having sufficient rubber for our military, much less our civil needs."

It might not be necessary in metropolitan areas or urban states to have the salesman to contact rural communities, he said, but "in states like Mississippi the traveling salesman is as essential as the merchant himself."

"My people are as patriotic as any segment of people in our great common country," he continued. "They are perfectly willing to suffer inconveniences and to sacrifice their own flesh and blood once they are convinced of the necessity thereof. But they dislike regimentation; they abhor subterfuge; they rebel at deceit. They want practical administration of the problems that face the country."

# ALLIES READY FOR ATTACK ON Russians Killing 10,000 Germans Daily

## TAKE ANOTHER STRONG PLACE ON DON RIVER

### Soviets Using Tactics Perfected In Drive Last Winter

### REDS ARE JUBILANT

### Operations Now Under Way Declared To Be Greatest Of War

By Henry C. Cassidy  
MOSCOW, Nov. 30.—(AP)—Soviet shock troops have wrested another Don river stronghold from the Germans under clearing skies on the Stalingrad front and are pressing westward through a blizzard in the parallel offensive west of Moscow, the Russians said today.

Germans were declared to be dying at the rate of 10,000 daily as Red army divisions pushed across the snow, utilizing tactics perfected in the 1941-42 winter drive.

While clouds vanished, cold prevailed in the Stalingrad area. Wind-driven snow cut down visibility on the central front. Moscow observers said the joint operations were the greatest undertaken by the Russians in their 17 months of war.

New German lines on the east bank of the Don were broken by the Soviet troops and 1,000 more Germans were reported to have paid with their lives for the luckless siege of Stalingrad. The Russian infantrymen were supported by tanks and artillery as they moved forward in the second breakthrough in this sector reported in two days.

Southwest of Stalingrad the Russian offensive also moved forward successfully, the mid-day communique reported, and another town and large stores of axis food and medical supplies were captured.

A special communique last night told how the Russians had driven from the Stalingrad-Krasnodar railroad line to capture the town of Obilnaya, 70 miles southeast of Kotelnikovsky.

Within the long-besieged city of Stalingrad fighting continued and the Russians said their artillery destroyed 38 German dugouts and blockhouses and wiped out a battalion of enemy infantry.

On the central front northwest of Moscow Red troops with all their winter paraphernalia were rolling the numbered Germans back through the heavy snow and the mid-day communique announced the capture of several inhabited communities.

On one sector of this front the Russians fought their way into an enemy stronghold over the bodies of 600 German officers and men, and captured eight guns, 14 machine guns, a radio station and a munitions dump, today's communique said.

Only in the Caucasus did the Germans show any aggressive action. An infantry attack southeast of Nalchik supported by tanks was broken up.

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## CHURCHILL IS 68 YEARS OLD

### Scarcely Pauses To Receive Felicitations On Birthday

LONDON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill arose before dawn today and plunged into his arduous daily tasks with scarcely a moment to receive felicitations on his 68th birthday and congratulations on his address last night when he bluntly advised Italy to get out of the war and coupled his review of good war news with an admonition to expect a "stern and terrible" 1943.

Members of the Churchill family in London called at 10 Downing street to felicitate the tough old campaigner and the BBC announcers in their early morning news broadcasts wished him "many happy returns" on behalf of radio listeners.

Among the messages of congratulation from all over the world was one from Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts, prime minister of South Africa and another veteran warrior, saying

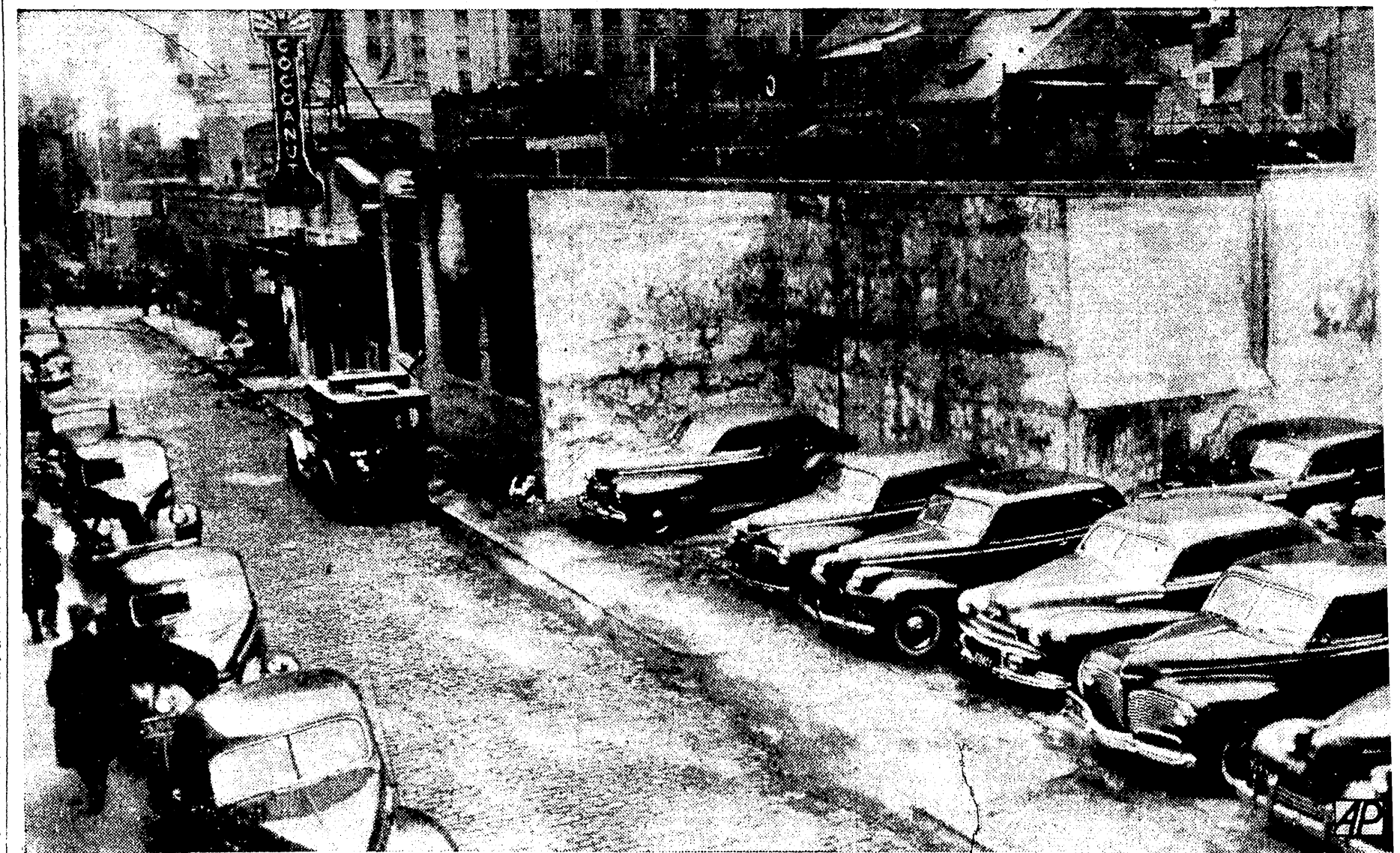
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## BIG V-FOR-VICTORY SIGN TAKEN DOWN

BATON ROUGE, La., Nov. 30.—(AP)—The big V-for-victory sign on Memorial Tower at Louisiana State university has been snuffed out for the duration, and university officials gave "patriotic" as reason for the seemingly ironical act.

Complying with dimout regulations of the office of civilian defense, the university's maintenance department is removing the electrically-lighted sign rather than let it remain exposed to the weather.

## Where More Than 477 Night Clubbers Met Death



Smoke blackened walls at the Coconut Grove Night club in Boston stand as the only outward sign of the furious fire there Saturday night that sent 477 patrons to their deaths in a few terrible minutes. Some of the cars parked on the lot and street in this picture were believed to belong to some of the victims, many of whom were unidentified hours after the fire. The flame of a match held by a 16-year-old bus boy while replacing an electric light bulb was credited Sunday with the starting of the "flash fire." The match was reported to have set fire to a palm tree and the blaze spread so quickly that the crowd of 1,000 merry-makers was trapped.

## U. S. Fortresses Start Blazes On 2 Jap Destroyers

## JAPS SEEK TO GET FOOTHOLD ON ATTU ISLE

### Flying Fortresses Attack Small Cargo Vessel Off Island

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—Their Kiska base under almost constant pounding by American bombers, the Japanese are attempting to secure a new foothold on the bleak little island of Attu, westernmost of the Aleutian chain.

The navy disclosed yesterday that the enemy had appeared on Attu by announcing army "Flying Fortresses" had attacked a small Japanese cargo vessel off the island, set on fire and sunk.

The same bulletin also disclosed that allied naval forces had intercepted an 8,000-ton German auxiliary west of Australia, pounded the vessel with gunfire and captured 78 of the crew after they had scuttled their ship.

It was the first report of naval activity in that area in many months and the first official mention of German shipping in the western Pacific in an even longer period.

On the New Guinea front American and Australian troops were reported maintaining steady pressure on Japanese forces clinging to a 10-

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## KEEPS PRETTY MUFF DURING BIG FIRE

BOSTON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—The "eternal feminine" instead of cherishing pretty things exhibited itself in the midst of the panic of the Coconut Grove holocaust in which at least 440 persons perished.

Pretty, 21-year-old Joyce Spector of Boston who suffered burns, told today how she clung to a new leopard-skin muff as she crawled under chairs and tables to safety.

In the confusion she was separated from her escort, Justin Morgan of Cambridge, listed as missing.

"I didn't have any stockings or shoes left on," she related as she lay on her bed, her face and hands blistered, her hair singed. "That was from everyone trampling and pushing, while I was crawling along the floor. But I had hung onto my leopard muff. My skirt was almost burned off."

In the panic, she said, "the men were the worst. Honest. There were pushing and hitting and shoving to get out. A big man pushed me in the back and knocked me down."

## Boston Fire Death Toll Set At 477

### More Than 200 Others Are Injured, Many Of Them Seriously

### BLAZE SET BY BOY Strikes Match To Replace Light Bulb Removed By Prankster

BOSTON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—State and county law-enforcement officers went into immediate action today to determine whether any law violation had contributed to the Saturday night fire that suddenly converted the Coconut Grove Night club into a house of flaming death for 477 merry-makers.

Moving under instructions from Acting Public Safety Commissioner John F. Stokes, State Fire Marshal Stephen C. Garrity turned over to District Attorney William J. Foley of Suffolk county a preliminary report of the fire that flared from match-flame lighted by a 16-year-old bus boy as he sought to replace a light bulb removed by a club patron.

Meanwhile, a hundred bodies still lay unnamed and unclaimed in the city's morgues, posing a terrible problem of identification to officials who said that many had been burned almost past recognition.

In undertaking establishments throughout New England, preparations were under way for the hundreds of

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## Italy Is Warned By Churchill To Get Out Of War

### Says Nation Must Quit Or Receive Shattering Air Attack

LONDON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill's warning to the Italian people—to get out of the war or expect a "prolonged, scientific and shattering air attack"—was pounded home again and again to the Italians today by the British Broadcasting corporation.

The BBC preceded Churchill's victory speech Sunday with broadcast appeals to the Italians to make a separate peace and followed up by rebroadcasting at intervals the full text.

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## EMERGENCY GAS TO BE AVAILABLE

### Fleet Operators Who Have Not Received Coupons Will Get Fuel

Operators of transport fleets, official automobiles and essential non-highway machines may obtain emergency gasoline when rationing becomes effective if they have not received their ration books, according to a telegram received by War Price and Rationing Board No. 28 from State OPA Director U. S. Goodman Monday.

The huge task of processing applications and issuing ration books has not been completed but operators of these essential vehicles will be able to obtain necessary gasoline, it was said. This does not apply to holders of "A" books or owners of any other automobiles not included in a fleet.

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## FINAL RITES HELD FOR TONI JO HENRY

LAKE CHARLES, La., Nov. 30.—(AP)—Last rites here at 10:20 a.m. today for Mrs. Annie Beatrice (Toni Jo) Henry, 26, executed Saturday, were said by Father Wayne Richard, jail priest who led her to the Catholic faith.

Following services at the Burke Funeral Home, burial was arranged in Graceland cemetery by John T. Burke, manager, who would not see her buried in Potter's field because relatives did not claim her body.

## EXPECTS CHAOS IN RATIONING OF GASOLINE

### Says System Must Be Simplified Or 'Terrific Mess' Will Result

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—Senator Vandenberg, Republican, Michigan, said today that "almost unbelievable chaos" would accompany nationwide gasoline rationing unless administrators simplified the system from that in effect along the eastern seaboard.

"A terrific administrative mess it means to be liquidated," Vandenberg told the senate, "and gasoline rationing regulations, already serious if no inflammatory, must be reviewed and simplified."

Conceding that it was an administrative and not a legislative problem and that Price Administrator Leo Henderson had his "sympathy," Vandenberg declared:

"However, these officials must get into the field and rationing must be governed under local responsibility of the system is needed for a serious breakdown."

Senator Reed, Republican, Kansas, interrupted to say he had been assured by Defense Transportation Di-

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## MANSFIELD WOMAN'S GRANDSON IN FIRE

MANSFIELD, La., Nov. 30.—(AP)—One of the victims of the Boston Coconut Grove fire tragedy was James Benjamin Jenkins, grandson of Mrs. Kie Jenkins of Mansfield. Young Jenkins was a senior at Harvard.

He was the son of Colonel W. E. Jenkins of Fort Bragg, N. C., a native of Mansfield, and a great nephew of the late John Jenkins of Shreveport. Upon receipt of the news Mrs. Kie Jenkins left for Fort Bragg to visit her son.

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## 'ENDLESS' TROOPS MOVING

ZURICH, Switzerland, Nov. 30.—(AP)—The Frankfurter Zeitung, in an issue which reached Switzerland today, reported that "endless columns" of troop transport vehicles and war materials were moving southward through Italy. The report did not say whether the columns were German or Italian.